

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 17-20 and 33, without prejudice.

Please amend claims 21, 22, 31, 32, 34 and 35.

Per 37 C.F.R. §1.121, the current status of all the claims in the present application is presented below.

**Claims 1-20 (canceled)**

Claim 21 (currently amended): An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide wherein the encoded polypeptide comprises a sequence of amino acid residues that is at least 95% identical in amino acid sequence to residues ~~40-285~~16-285 of SEQ ID NO:2, and wherein said sequence comprises:

Gly-Xaa-Xaa or Gly-Xaa-Pro repeats forming a collagen domain, wherein Xaa is any amino acid; and

a carboxyl-terminal C1q domain comprising 10 beta strands.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 21, wherein the encoded polypeptide is at least 95% identical in amino acid sequence to residues ~~46-285~~1-285 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 23 (original): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 21, wherein said collagen domain consists of 24 Gly-Xaa-Xaa repeats and 10 Gly-Xaa-Pro repeats.

Claim 24 (original): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 21, wherein said carboxyl-terminal C1q domain comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

Claim 25 (original): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 21, wherein said carboxy-terminal C1q domain comprises amino acid residues 151-155, 172-174, 180-183, 187-190, 193-205, 208-214, 220-227, 229-241, 246-251 and 269-274 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 26 (original): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 21, wherein any differences between said polypeptide and SEQ ID NO:2 are due to conservative amino acid substitutions.

Claim 27 (original): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 21, wherein said polypeptide specifically binds with an antibody that specifically binds with a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 28 (original): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 21, wherein said collagen domain consists of amino acid residues 41-141 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 29 (original): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 21, wherein said carboxy-terminal C1q domain consists of amino acid residues 142-285 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 30 (original): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 21, wherein said polypeptide comprises residues 16-285 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 31 (currently amended): An isolated polynucleotide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a) nucleotide 1 to nucleotide 1161 of SEQ ID NO:1;
- b) nucleotide 133 to nucleotide 987 of SEQ ID NO:1;
- c) nucleotide 178133 to nucleotide 987990 of SEQ ID NO:1;
- d) nucleotide 250178 to nucleotide 987 of SEQ ID NO:1;
- e) nucleotide 556178 to nucleotide 987990 of SEQ ID NO:1;
- f) ~~nucleotide 133 to nucleotide 555 of SEQ ID NO:1;~~
- g) ~~nucleotide 178 to nucleotide 555 of SEQ ID NO:1;~~
- h) ~~nucleotide 250 to nucleotide 555 of SEQ ID NO:1;~~

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- i) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide, wherein the encoded polypeptide consists of a sequence of amino acid residues that is at least 95% identical to a polypeptide consisting of amino acid residues 40 to 141 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- j) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide, wherein the encoded polypeptide consists of a sequence of amino acid residues that is at least 95% identical to a polypeptide consisting of amino acid residues 142 to 285 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- k) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide, wherein the encoded polypeptide consists of a sequence of amino acid residues that is at least 95% identical to a polypeptide consisting of amino acid residues 40 to 285 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- l) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide, wherein the encoded polypeptide consists of a sequence of amino acid residues that is at least 95% identical to a polypeptide consisting of amino acid residues 16 to 141 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- m) a polynucleotide that remains hybridized following stringent wash conditions to a polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or complement of SEQ ID NO:1; and
- nf) nucleotide sequences complementary to a), b), c), d), or e), f), g), h), i), j), k), or l).

Claim 32 (currently amended): An isolated polynucleotide encoding a fusion protein, wherein the fusion protein comprises a first portion and a second portion joined by a peptide bond, and wherein the first portion comprises a polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 16-285 of SEQ ID NO:2, and wherein the is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polypeptide comprising a sequence of amino acid residues that is at least 95% identical in amino acid sequence to amino acid residues 40 to 285 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- b) a polypeptide comprising a sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;
- c) a polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 16 to 285 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- d) a portion of a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 comprising the collagen-like domain or a portion of the collagen-like domain capable of dimerization or oligomerization;
- e) a portion of a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 containing the C1q domain; or

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~~f) a portion of a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 including a collagen-like domain and a C1q domain; and~~

    said second portion ~~comprising~~ comprises another polypeptide.

Claim 33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (currently amended): An expression vector comprising the following operably linked elements:

    a transcription promoter;

    a DNA segment encoding an isolated polypeptide comprising a sequence of amino acid residues that is at least 95% identical in amino acid sequence to residues 40-285 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said sequence comprises:

        Gly-Xaa-Xaa or Gly-Xaa-Pro repeats forming a collagen domain, wherein Xaa is any amino acid; and

        a carboxyl-terminal C1q domain comprising 10 beta strands; and

    a transcription terminator.

Claim 35 (currently amended): An expression vector of claim 34, wherein said DNA segment encodes a polypeptide that is at least 95% identical in amino acid sequence to residues ~~46-285~~1-285 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 36 (original): The expression vector of claim 34, wherein said collagen domain consists of 24 Gly-Xaa-Xaa repeats and 10 Gly-Xaa-Pro repeats.

Claim 37 (original): The expression vector of claim 34, wherein said carboxyl-terminal C1q domain comprises a sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

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Claim 38 (original): The expression vector of claim 34, wherein said carboxy-terminal C1q domain comprises amino acid residues 151-155, 172-174, 180-183, 187-190, 193-205, 208-214, 220-227, 229-241, 246-251 and 269-274 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 39 (original): The expression vector of claim 34, wherein any differences between said polypeptide and SEQ ID NO:2 are due to conservative amino acid substitutions.

Claim 40 (original): The expression vector of claim 34, wherein said polypeptide specifically binds with an antibody that specifically binds with a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 41 (original): The expression vector of claim 34, wherein said collagen domain consists of amino acid residues 41-141 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 42 (original): The expression vector of claim 34, wherein said carboxy-terminal C1q domain consists of amino acid residues 142-285 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 43 (original): The expression vector of claim 34, wherein said DNA segment encodes a polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 16-285 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 44 (original): The expression vector of claim 34, wherein said DNA segment encodes a polypeptide covalently linked at the amino or carboxyl terminus to an affinity tag.

Claim 45 (original): The expression vector of claim 34, wherein said DNA segment further encodes a secretory signal sequence operably linked to said polypeptide.

Claim 46 (original): The expression vector of claim 34, wherein said secretory signal sequence comprises residues 1-15 of SEQ ID NO:2.

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Claim 47 (original): A cultured cell into which has been introduced an expression vector according to claim 34, wherein said cell expresses said polypeptide encoded by said DNA segment.

Claim 48 (original): A method of producing a polypeptide comprising:  
culturing a cell into which has been introduced an expression vector according to claim 34;

whereby said cell expresses said polypeptide encoded by said DNA segment; and  
recovering said expressed polypeptide.